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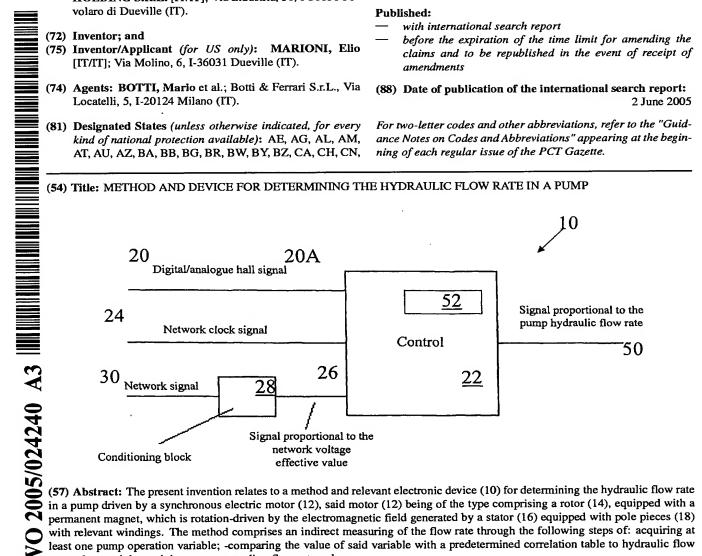
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with relevant windings. The method comprises an indirect measuring of the flow rate through the following steps of: acquiring at least one pump operation variable; -comparing the value of said variable with a predetermined correlation table to hydraulic flow rate values and determining a corresponding flow rate value.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01F1/78 F04D F04D15/00 G01D5/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) GO1D GO1F IPC 7 F04D Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1,3-5,8, EP 0 971 212 A (SULZER ELECTRONICS AG Α :LUST ANTRIEBSTECHNIK GMBH (DE)) 12 January 2000 (2000-01-12) sentence 3 - sentence 5 page 4, line 23 - line 28 page 7, line 30 - page 8, line 7 page 8, line 35 - page 9, line 21 1 - 4US 4 781 525 A (CLAUSEN EARL W ET AL) Α 1 November 1988 (1988-11-01) column 2, line 35 - column 3, line 39 1-12 DE 44 18 721 A (LICENTIA GMBH) Α 30 November 1995 (1995-11-30) figure W Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X. Special categories of cited documents : *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 21/03/2005 11 March 2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Keita, M

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